

# FEEDING GALICIAN REFUGEES IN VIENNA



TEA ROOM IN THE GREAT VIENNESE GRAIN BOURSE.—FROM A DRAWING BY W. GAUSE.

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## REVELATIONS OF AN ENGLISH-AMERICAN GOVERNESS IN A PRINCELY GERMAN HOUSE

**Young Woman Discloses Frankly What She Saw and Heard Among Nation's Greatest**

PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA procured in 1909 for the anonymous author of the interesting book of reminiscences, "What I Found Out," just issued by Frederick A. Stokes Company, the position of governess in a German princely house. Her employers insisted on regarding her as American, not English, because her grandfather had been an Admiral in the United States navy. She was so presented to the Kaiser and other visitors, and therefore there was little attempt at reticence in her presence.

The Kaiser, the Crown Prince, Gen. von Bernhardi, the Krupps, Count Zeppelin, Gen. von Kluck, Herr Dernburg and important secret service people all came under her observation. She tells frankly what she saw and heard, giving names and concealing only the identity of her employers.

Highly significant and interesting are the revelations of the attitude of the German court toward England, especially in the light of recent events. From the first meeting with her young charges in their Zeppelin game, "destroying London before supper," to her escape in disguise after war began, the author's experiences make lively reading. The publishers state that they have proof of the genuineness of the events in the book.

The author's father, an Englishman of good birth, held when a young man a small post in the diplomatic service in Washington and there married the daughter of an American naval officer who in the course of his travels around the world had met the present Kaiser before he came to the throne and the Kaiser's brother, Prince Henry of Prussia. It was this American grandfather whom the Germans always chose to regard when considering the family connections of the princess.

In addition to several nurses the new governess found in charge of the little Princess and two Princes a sort of military governor whose business it was to teach the elder Prince (aged 6) to be soldierly in mind and body.

"The boys worship the Herr Lieutenant," the governess was informed. "They think it is a grand thing to be in the society of a soldier, a grown man. Besides, he has been a pupil of Count Zeppelin and he has brought a game which the Count invented and ordered to be made for the Princes to teach them a warlike spirit. We shall find the children playing it now and their cousin, my little Princess, also.

the tiny cars suspended from them. The toys were propelled through the air by mechanism, but were guided in any direction desired, slowed down or stopped by means of a long gray string attached to each. There was also another string, not so thick as the gray one, which matched the shade of the car. This was bright red in color, and its use was demonstrated while I looked.

"The elder Prince, who was playing, drew in his Zeppelin, which he had been allowing to career about aimlessly as if to frighten the population. Having made it pause, he pulled it back like a cheap watch or a mechanical insect, he pulled the red string, whereupon a shower of white pills tumbled out from the bottom of the three or four inch car. They fell over one of the green spaces in the city, and most of them broke into powder, spattering the singlass water.

"Worse than ever!" cried the Lieutenant. "You drop too many always and in the wrong places. Look at the white spots my bombs have left on important buildings! I never waste time or material. Now watch again the way I do it. I'm over Westminster Abbey—"

"The first time the governess met the Kaiser she was giving her charges their English lesson in a summer house close to their play earthworks.

"I was reading aloud," she recounts, "a boys' book by George Henty, which I had brought among others from England for that purpose, and stopping at exciting parts to get the children to criticize it in English. We were having an animated discussion when I heard footstep crunching on the gravel path which led to the summer house. My back was half turned to the doorway, and before beginning to read again I looked around rather impatiently.

"Two gentlemen in uniform were standing in the path, one a step in advance of the other. Nobody who had seen any of the later photographs could have failed to recognize the foremost officer as the Kaiser, though the portraits were idealized. The face of the original was older, the nose heavier and the figure shorter, stockier than I had expected. Nor had I been told about the scar high up on the left cheek.

"I was so taken by surprise that I lost my presence of mind. Jumping up, I dropped my book and knocked over the light wicker chair which was supposed to be of British manufacture. To make matters worse the Emperor burst out laughing, a good natured laugh, but embarrassing to me, as I was the object of his merriment.

"I have upset the United Kingdom and the United States of America," his imperial Majesty hawhawed in good English, though in rather a harsh

voice, making a gesture of the right hand toward the chair of alleged British make and the fallen book with George Henty's name on the back, at the same time giving me one of the most direct looks I have ever had, full in the face. It seemed to challenge me, and I remembered having heard that a short cut to the Kaiser's favor was a smart repartee. The worst of it was that like a flash I thought of one which would be pat, if impertinent, but I dared not risk it.

"Luckily my two Princes rushed past me to throw themselves upon their sovereign, and their cousin followed suit, more timidly. Perhaps she had discovered that his imperial Majesty does not care much for little girls unless they are pretty.

"The Kaiser was kind but short in his greeting of the children and did not seem to notice that they expected to be kissed. Probably he was not satisfied as to their state of health, as they had been sent out of an infected town and he has never conquered his horror of contagious diseases. With his right hand the seldom uses the left on the dark head of the elder boy, he patted him around with rough playfulness.

"Don't you see that Miss —'s chair and book are on the floor?" inquired the "All Highest." "What is a gentleman's duty—I mean pleasure—when a lady drops anything?"

"To pick it up," replied the child, his face red as he hurried back into the summer house and suited the action to the word.

"Very good, though late," said the Kaiser. Then, no doubt thinking that I had had time to recover myself, he turned to me, more quizzical than ever. "Perhaps according to present ideas in England I am old fashioned? But I hope you are not English enough to be a suffragette, Miss —?"

"I recognized the great compliment of his knowing my name, as I am sure he expected. I had heard already that suffragettes were to the Emperor as red rags to a bull and that he always brought up the subject with Englishwomen when he met them for the first time. I ventured to remark that to be English was not necessarily to be a suffragette.

"He shook his finger at me like a schoolmaster, though he smiled. 'Ah, but you are not an Englishwoman, or you would not say that. All these modern Englishwomen are suffragettes. Well, we should show them what we think of them if they sent a deputation here. But while they confine themselves to their own soil we can bless them. They are sowing good seed for us to reap.'

"I had no idea what his Majesty meant by the last sentences, though I could see that an innuendo was intended . . . but it is only after

these five years that I have perhaps guessed the riddle. The Kaiser must even then have begun to count on the weakening of England by its threatened war of the sexes."

"When he made a witticism he laughed out aloud, opening his mouth, throwing back his head slightly with a little jerk and looking one straight out of the eyes to see if one had appreciated the fun of the saying. The more one laughed the better he seemed pleased and the more lively he became, almost like a merry child. But when the subject was dismissed and he began to think of something else, I noticed—not only on that day but on others, later—that occasionally an odd, wandering, strained expression came into his eyes. For a moment he would appear older than his age; though when his mind was fixed upon himself and he was 'braced' by self-consciousness, he looked almost young and very vital, if fatter than his favorite photographs represented him.

"He graciously put out his hand, palm down, for me to shake. I noticed how large it was in contrast with the left, which he kept out of the way. It was beautifully cared for, and there were more rings on it than an Englishman or American would wear, but it was not an attractive shape and looked somehow unhealthy. As if in punishment to me for such a thought, the big hand gave mine a fearful grip. It was like the closing of a vise, and I could almost hear my bones crack. I wonder if the Emperor had cultivated this trick to show how strong he was; but I should have been glad to take his strength on faith.

"One of the most interesting things," narrates the governess, "that happened to me in my first year, was a visit (with the Princess, of course) to Villa Huegel, the house of Herr and Frau Krupp von Bohlen, in the Ruhr Valley near Essen. Bertha Krupp, the 'Cannon Queen' and richest German heiress in Germany if not in the world, had been married to the south German diplomat, Gustav von Bohlen und Halbach, less than four years. She was only about 24, but the coming of children had aged her, as it does all German women apparently, and she had already ceased to look girlish.

"Her husband, who is sixteen or seventeen years senior to his wife, might have been no more than ten years older, to judge by their appearance when together. He put the name of Krupp in front of his own immediately after his marriage with the heiress, and few people add the 'und Halbach' now, except officially.

"We were quite a large family party, my two little Princes, their parents and several attendants as well as servants. But in the huge, imitation Italian villa, larger than many palaces, there was plenty of room to accommo-

**Her Observations of the Kaiser, the Crown Prince, Von Bernhardi, Zeppelin and Many Others**

date a number of important guests at the same time. Gen. von Bernhardi was one; and his was another dome of a head such as all the greatest men of Germany are supposed to possess.

"In seeing several of these 'supreme intellects' grouped together and hearing certain sentiments they expressed, it struck me that something rather sinister must be packed up with the solid contents of the domes: for one thing a colossal and astounding national conceit which has helped more than anything, I now believe, to bring about the present European situation. A thought which occurred to me for the first time while at the peaceful seeming, pleasant Villa Huegel, was that the German domes, compared with the best intellectual heads I recalled in England and America, were not nobler than the domes of mosques in comparison with cathedrals."

During this visit the governess met Bernhardi for the first time, and she gives this impression:

"All I knew then of Gen. von Bernhardi was that he was considered a great soldier and had been the first officer to ride into Paris in 1871, or some tale of that sort. However, the minute I saw him I felt that here was a tremendous personality and an intensely repellent one, a man to be reckoned with. I determined to ask a great many questions concerning him of the Countess, who knew everything about everybody and did not object to telling what she knew with embellishments.

"My name was politely mentioned by the host and the visiting gentlemen all bowed to me. The only one who did so stiffly, as if he grudgingly lent his thick, short neck for my benefit, was Gen. von Bernhardi. He gave me one sharp look from under his rather beetling eyebrows and I wondered if he despised all women or had merely taken a distaste to me.

"You are English? he asked shortly in German, his tone being that of a man accustomed to throw out commands as you might throw a battle-axe.

"(She was born in Washington," said Herr Krupp von Bohlen in his pleasant, cultivated voice. "Washington is the most interesting city of the United States and holds pleasant memories for me. Miss —'s grandfather was a distinguished American naval officer."

"As he said this he gave me a faint, rather humorous smile, which I

interpreted as a warning or request not to try explaining my antecedents. "Ach! That is better!" granted the General. And I knew that whatever might be his attitude toward women in general English women were anyhow beyond the pale.

"Later I heard from the Countess that women were not much higher than the 'four footed animal kingdom' for Bernhardi; that he loudly contradicted his wife, even at hotel tables, when they travelled together; that he always walked ahead of her in the street and pushed past her or even other ladies, if strangers to him, in order to go first through a doorway.

"From the Countess I learned what a great military expert he was considered. She said, as if it were a good joke, that he was 'almost ready now for the long waited war on England.' That was why he was at Essen, to see how the new 'surprise' big guns were getting along.

"I did not pay much attention to that part of her gossip, because it was, of course, the Krupps' business to make guns, and I did not realize that the Countess was indiscreetly blabbing to me what she must have heard whispered as a dead secret. It did not occur to me that she meant anything in particular, and even now I hardly believe that she knew her own information was lightly giving away.

"Gen. von Bernhardi took scant notice of me when he walked into the charming room given up to my Princes for their few lessons and many amusements. He sat down and lifted a boy on to each large knee. They were not shy with him, and answered his catlike list of questions as freely as if he were an old friend, though they had not seen him before since they were quite small.

"The elder said that he was going to be a sailor as soon as he was old enough. Bernhardi asked the older about the size of the various nations' armies, and the boy was eager to show off what he had learned, not from me, but from Lieut. von —. When he came to the English army, he announced that there were only 180,000 men. I wanted to break in with 'What about India?' but I managed to keep silent.

"Ah, we shall not have much trouble with them, shall we?" chuckled Bernhardi.

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